

Resolution No.:	18-989
Introduced:	December 5, 2017
Adopted:	December 12, 2017

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

Sponsor: Councilmember Leventhal
Council President Riemer, Council Vice-President Navarro
Councilmember Rice, Councilmember Elrich, Councilmember Katz, Councilmember Floreen,
Councilmember Berliner, Councilmember Hucker

SUBJECT: Work Group on Meeting the Needs of Residents with Developmental Differences

Background

1. Montgomery County is committed to creating an inclusive community for people with disabilities so that they are treated equitably and fairly and can participate fully in the life of the county.
2. While there is no exact estimate of the number of county residents with developmental differences (also called developmental disabilities), the 2016 American Community Survey reports that 29,614 people identify as having a cognitive disability; with about 70% of those being less than 65 years of age. Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) reported that for 2016, there were 2,386 special education students with Autism, 3,387 with a Developmental Delay, and 653 with an intellectual disability. Other national models estimate that the county has about 15,000 to 16,000 people with developmental disabilities.
3. In August 2017, there were 1,058 Montgomery County residents on the Maryland Developmental Disability Administration's waiting list. MCPS reported in October 2017 there were 1,070 Montgomery County youth on the Autism Waiver Registry; 246 have a waiver and services, while 824 do not. While not all of the 824 will qualify for a waiver, there is about a nine year wait for services.
4. In July 2017, the Office of Legislative Oversight issued its report, "Housing for Adults with Developmental Disabilities." This report discusses the housing choices needed to support people with a range of developmental differences, from minor financial or daily living supports to long-term care and significant supports for activities of daily living. Federal law and court decisions, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Fair Housing Act, and Olmstead v. L.C., require movement toward a system that gives people choice and the same rights as those without a developmental disability. While focused on housing options, the report highlights many issues, such as the adequacy of Medicaid reimbursements, availability of housing subsidies, importance of access to public transportation, and the significance of increasing employment opportunities.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

The Council directs the Council Administrator to designate appropriate members of the Council staff to form a Work Group on Meeting the Needs of Residents with Developmental Differences.

The Work Group must invite representatives from the following organizations to assist the Work Group:

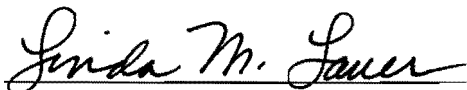
- Department of Health and Human Services,
- Department of Transportation,
- Department of Housing and Community Affairs,
- Department of Recreation,
- Montgomery County Public Schools,
- Montgomery College,
- Maryland Developmental Disabilities Administration,
- WorkSource Montgomery,
- Representatives chosen by the Commission on People with Disabilities that may include consumers of Developmental Disability Administration services and family members or caregivers of a differently abled person.
- Representative from InterACC/DD
- Public at-large

The Work Group must consider information available on the current number of residents with developmental differences and projections based on trends seen in Montgomery County Public Schools, early childhood programs, and other programs that may identify or assess certain conditions, such as Autism.

The Work Group must review and report on current gaps in services including, but not limited to child care, education, discrimination, transition to adult services, resource coordination, housing, transportation, employment, health care, and recreation. The Work Group must report on best practices as well as innovations in each identified service area. If available, the Work Group must provide information on costs associated with programs and services.

The Work Group must provide an interim report to the Council by July 18, 2018 and a final report by October 16, 2018

This is a correct copy of Council action.



Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council